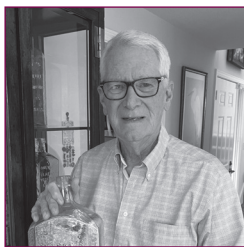


FOHBC REGIONAL NEWS

Please visit FOHBC.org for expanded coverage.



Northeast Region [Charlie Martin, Jr., Director]

On Sunday, April 6, 2025, the **Little Rhody Antique Bottle Club** held its long-awaited bottle show. As you may recall, their show was always held in January. They dodged bad weather for many years. However, in January of 2023, they could not avoid a bad winter

storm. As a direct result of that storm, club membership made the decision to establish a new date in April for their annual show and sale. In celebration of this new date, the author set up the show to do two things, sell bottles and represent the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC). My day was spent greeting and meeting old and new friends to talk about bottles and to encourage those not already Federation members to consider investing a few dollars to become active members. Hopefully, there will be an uptick of new members as a result of all the upcoming bottle shows in our Northeast Region. No bottle collector should go it alone; bottle clubs are an excellent resource for collectors just getting into the hobby. The Federation offers a wealth of valuable information to make your collecting more enjoyable and help you gain knowledge about your collection.

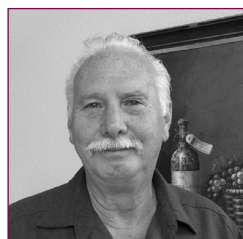
Help Solve a 166-year-old Mystery! Federation member **Eliot Hudson** (EliotHudsonTheWriter@gmail.com or EliotHudson.com) is in need of factual information that one of you may possess, or you may have knowledge that will further help him obtain vital data for the book he is writing about Frederick Douglass. Let's help him make historic bottle history! Eliot needs any information you might have about Scottish-born brick and "clay ale beer bottle" maker Andrew Johnston of Hoboken, New Jersey, circa 1859. Andrew saved Frederick Douglass' life after the Harper's Ferry Raid. Eliot believes that Andrew Johnston was practicing his skills in New York at this time. He made "clay, earthenware, stoneware, crockery, pottery, or possibly transitioned to glassware" products. Please get in touch with Eliot directly if you are able to provide him with any facts about Andrew Johnston. I love a good mystery, especially if it reveals new knowledge. All the best, Eliot!

Roy Topka with the National Bottle Museum sent two update notices. The first is that the museum is updating to new backlit display cases for the **Ralph and Eleanor Work** collection of Saratoga-type bottles. Roy will send photos when the work is complete. We will post the images on our website, as well.

Secondly, **Alex Prizgintas**, president of the Woodbury Historical Society and Town Historian of Woodbury in Orange County, New York, has put together a unique collection and display of milk bottles from this area, thus helping to preserve New York's lost dairy farming empire. He plans to set up his display at the

Saratoga Antique Bottle Show and Sale on June 1, 2025.

Afterward, Alex intends to "take his show on the road." If you would like more information, reach out to Roy Topka at the National Bottle Museum, Balston Spa, New York. Until next time, happy bottle collecting!



Western Region [Eric McGuire, Director]

I love to give a plug to the **49'er Historical Bottle Club** whenever possible. It is an interesting "hybrid" club that no longer has monthly meetings or even a newsletter. Perhaps best known for its yearly show and sale in Auburn, California, it will host one of its grand

picnics in May. Hopefully, you will receive this before the event. It will be held May 17 at 7551 Mountain Avenue, in Orangevale, California, hosted by **Kim and Judy Bakke**. It will be outside at their family vineyard, which is a simply beautiful location. Check it out on Google Maps.

Michael Doyle admirably documented the recent Golden Gate Bottle Club show/sale at Antioch, California, on April 13, 2025. This show is an important 'mainstay' to collectors throughout the Western states and beyond, and this year it lived up to its reputation. One important perspective that has brought new life to recent shows is the greater interest and demand for bottles of a newer vintage. Without this injection, it is apparent that the interest in bottles would drastically wither away. This is simply a fact of life, primarily driven by our life span as well as the availability of collectible items. You can see the pictures at FOHBC.org.

Show chair, **Gary Antone**, provided some interesting statistics on the heartbeat of the show. A total of 72 sales tables filled the hall with no room to spare. Early buyers equaled 111 who attended the show opener on Friday at Noon. That was virtually the same as last year, which was down by only six attendees. The hall is blessed with a great kitchen, and some of the club members, notably **Jackie Lindgren** and **Darla Antone**, "chef-fed" their way into the hearts of numerous attendees. A raffle was stocked with several early coins and some bottles. The three coins were won by **Manuel Cunha** and **Richard Siri**. A "Tippecanoe" bottle was won by **Mike Doyle**, and **Arpana Vaniya** won a "Dr. Soule's Hop Bitters" bottle. Thanks to the Golden Gate Club for hosting another fine show.



Midwest Region [Henry Hecker, Director]

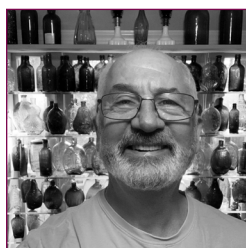
A recent auction house in Wisconsin created spirited bidding for a previously unknown (by most stoneware aficionados) three-gallon ovoid jug. Stamped "A. W. Bunster Wholesale Liquor



Dealer, Janesville, Wis” and manufactured by the **Milwaukee Stoneware Factory** about 1857, the jug hammered down for \$4,000. The characteristic cobalt lily decoration can attribute this advertising jug’s origin. These historical type pieces rarely show up anymore.

The **Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club** likes to create some intrigue by asking for show-and-tell items beginning with a different letter of the alphabet at each meeting. March was the letter “X” and members still found items to bring! Also reported was a recent Mt. Clemens estate sale, which produced an open pontil cornucopia and eagle flask for \$2. The *Glass Chatter* newsletter from the **Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club** reports the iconic **Malcolm “Pete” Peterson** fruit jar collection auction.

Some extra excitement occurred at the February meeting of the **Ohio Bottle Club**. Items brought in made it feel like you were visiting the Corning Museum of Glass, according to one comment. An ultra-rare Callahan’s Whiskey from Pittsburgh showed up. Note the similarity to an American Life Bitters from Tiffin, Ohio. On a sadder note, their *Ohio Swirl* newsletter reports the passing of two of its beloved members. Ohio Bottle Club and longtime Federation member **Adam Koch** voluntarily served the Federation, particularly as the Convention Director, for many years, and many current senior members have befriended and worked with Adam to promote our hobby and the Federation’s goals. Adam was the Show Chairman for the 1992 Federation Expo held in Toledo, Ohio, which was the largest bottle show ever held to date. With Adam’s leadership and Ohio Bottle Club volunteers, the show boasted 550 sales tables, 60 displays, and numerous specialty group meetings and seminars. As a prominent participant at dozens and dozens of shows over 60 years, Adam was a premier promoter for the bottle hobby. A “Celebration of Life” for Adam Koch, will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 2 to 4:00 pm at Newcomer Funeral Home, 131 N. Canton Rd., Akron, Ohio. **Edna DeCroo’s** passing was also noted. Edna was married to **Pittsburgh Antique Bottle Club** and **Ohio Bottle Club** member **Bob DeCroo**. Bob and Edna were chairpersons of the famous Pittsburgh Bottle Show. Edna always worked the front door selling tickets and greeting all who attended. I suspect that Edna did a lot behind the scenes of the OBC, and we extend our deepest condolences.



Southern Region [Tom Lines, Director]

From **Brad Weber**. The **8th Annual Central Texas Bottle, Jar, Insulator, Pottery/Stoneware, Breweriana, Advertising and Collectibles Show** held at the Old Settlers Hall in Round Rock, Texas on February 21st and 22nd was the largest show since its inception.

With over 60 tables and 35 dealers, it has become one of the largest shows of its kind in Texas. Dealers came from across the Lone Star State. From Amarillo to Corpus Christi, San Antonio to Dallas/Ft. Worth, the best of the best assembled to buy, sell, and trade a fine assortment of bottles, insulators, Texas stoneware, jars, marbles, Texas breweriana, and advertising. Pizza was provided to dealers Friday evening, and the world-famous Round Rock Donuts were provided for breakfast the following morning. The show drew in over 400 people despite the cold and drizzle. There was a visible increase in younger collectors who attended the show, proving that the hobby is alive and well here in Texas. Much like an ice cream parlor, the show was full of smiling people. It was not an uncommon sight to see people leaving with their hands full of new treasures and coming back in for more!

From **Bob Morgan**. I attended the **3rd Annual Carolina Antique Bottle and Collectible Show** last weekend. **Johnny McAulay** puts on the show, which has grown steadily over the years. The show was held in the Charles Mack Center in historic downtown Mooresville, North Carolina, about 30 miles north of Charlotte. It is spacious, well-lit, and comfortable. Attendance was strong, and sales seemed to be brisk throughout the floor. Like most regional bottle shows, there was a heavy dose of local bottles and historical collectibles available. However, a good variety of “national” bottles were also available, covering most categories and interests. All in all, it was a good day at the bottle show.

Jason Herron and **Buddy Lasater** pulled off another great event this year. The **4th Annual Chattanooga I North Georgia Antique Bottles & Advertising Show** at the Dalton Convention Center had nearly 200 tables, with dealers from six states participating. With an eight-hour-long dealer setup day on Friday, most of the action was then with many early buyers. The public turnout on Saturday was moderate. The potential for severe weather dampened the spirits of many dealers and the public alike. Buddy and Jason announced that the show date for 2026 was being moved to June, which made this writer very happy!

At the end of last month, **Rod Vining** chaired another jam-up **Mobile Bottle Collectors Club’s 52nd Annual Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show & Sale** in Daphne, Alabama, with 100+ tables of bottles, advertising, and stoneware. Daphne is always a good show with great local turnout. Dealers experienced brisk business on Friday afternoon and Saturday. Six states were represented. Among things changing hands were two extra large case gins—18 inches tall! The show is also the annual reunion for four long-term friends. They celebrate their friendship at Gambino’s Italian Grill in nearby Fairhope, Alabama, where the food is always good.

